

Wisconsin Milk Production Down

In August 2006, Wisconsin milk production totaled 1.95 billion pounds, down 18 million pounds from August 2005. This 1 percent decline may be attributable to extreme heat earlier in the summer. Wisconsin's cows averaged 1,570 pounds per cow for the month, compared to 1,595 pounds last August. The number of milk cows held steady with last month at 1.24 million head, but rose 1 percent from last year. As of September 1, 2006, the state had 14,521 licensed milk cow herds, compared with 14,572 herds last month and 15,007 a year ago.

Milk production in the 23 major states during August totaled 13.9 billion pounds, up 2 percent from a year ago. Production in these states averaged 1,680 pounds per cow in August, 9 pounds above the previous August. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major states was 8.25 million head, up 88,000 head from August 2005, but 9,000 fewer head than July 2006.

Twelve states had higher production than in 2005, while 11 states showed decreases. The five states with the largest gains, percentage wise, were: Colorado, Texas, Idaho, New Mexico, and California. California producers added 9,000 cows compared to a year ago, but lost 4,000 from July 2006. Milk per cow in California rebounded from July. In August, Golden State dairy farms output 65 more pounds per cow than last year and 100 more pounds than the previous month. California's August milk production rose 4 percent from a year ago.

Milk production in Vermont, Washington, and Oregon fell 4 percent from last August. New York, the number three state in milk production, lost 4,000 milk cows compared to both last month and the previous August. However, production in the Empire State was nearly the same as August 2005, at 1.03 billion pounds.

August Milk Production

State	Milk cows 1/		Rate per cow 2/		Production 2/		Pro- duction % change 2006/05
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	
	Thousand head		Pounds		Million pounds		Percent
Wisconsin	1,236	1,244	1,595	1,570	1,971	1,953	-1
California	1,759	1,768	1,795	1,860	3,157	3,288	+4
Idaho	468	495	1,940	1,960	908	970	+7
Michigan	314	319	1,830	1,830	575	584	+2
Minnesota	450	450	1,510	1,525	680	686	+1
New Mexico	331	362	1,825	1,780	604	644	+7
New York	647	643	1,600	1,605	1,035	1,032	n.c.
Pennsylvania	562	554	1,575	1,580	885	875	-1
23-state total	8,162	8,250	1,671	1,680	13,640	13,861	+2

1/Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/Excludes milk sucked by calves. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.